

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 TEHRAN 06806 011048Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EUR-12 PM-05 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15
L-03 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-06
PRS-01 AID-05 OMB-01 TRSE-00 /074 W
-----028074 011232Z /53
R 010821Z AUG 77
FM AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3825

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEHRAN 6806

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PGOV, PINT, IR
SUBJECT: CHANGE OF PRIME MINISTERS IM THE MAKING?

1. THE TEHRAN RUMOR MILL, WHICH PERIODICALLY AHS PREDICTED HOVEYDA'S DEPARTURE AS PRIME MINISTER (AFTER NEARLY 13 YEARS ON THE JOB), HAS BEEN WORKING AT A HIGHER PITCH THAN USUAL IN RECENT WEEKS. SEVERAL OF OUR DIPLOMATIC COLLEAGUES, INCLUDING THE BRITISH, FRENCH AND CANADIANS, SAY THEY ARE CONVINCED THAT THIS TIME THE RUMORS RING TRUE.

2. PREDICTIONS IN THIS AREA ARE CHANCY, AS WE NOTED IN OUR A-116 OF JULY 11, SINCE IN THE FINAL ANALYSIS THE SHAH IS THE ONLY ONE WHO REALLY KNOWS AND HE RARELY TIPS HIS HAND IN ADVANCE. THE MAIN ARGUMENT ADVANCED FOR A CHANGE IS POSSIBLE DESIRE ON THE SHAH'S PART TO CHANGE GOI'S IMAGE AS A WAY OF DEFUSING COMPLAINTS ABOUT SUCH THINGS AS RECURRING SUMMER ELECTRICAL POWER SHORTAGES IN THE CAPITAL AS WELL AS SUGGESTING A MORE TOLERANT NEW ATTITUDE TOWARD PUBLIC COMPLAINTS AND OTHER EXPRESSIONS OF DISSENT.

3. THE LEADING CANDIDATE FOR MOST OBSERVERS IS MINISTER OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS AND FINANCE ANSARY, THOUGH A NUMBER OF OTHER MINISTERS AND FORMER PRIME MINISTERS ALSO ARE MENTIONED. SOMEWHAT GREATER PUBLIC EXPOSURE IN THE
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 TEHRAN 06806 011048Z

PRESS FOR ANSARY AND ONE OR TWO OTHERS RECENTLY CIETED AS POSSIBLE STRAW IN THE WIND.

4. ON THE OTHER HAND, WE ARE AWARE OF NO COMPELLING REASON FOR REPLACEMENT OF HOVEYDA AT THIS TIME. HIS PUBLIC IMAGE HAS NOT DETERIORATED IN ANY SIGNIFICANT WAY. HE HAS RETURNED FROM VACATION IN CORSICA STILL IN

APPARENT GOOD HEALTH, AND HE WOULD APPEAR TO ENJOY THE
CONFIDENCE OF THE SHAH AS MUCH AS EVER. CHANGES OF OTHER
MINISTERS COULD SERVE TO BLUNT CURRENT CRITICISM WITHOUT
NECESSARILY CHANGING THE PRIME MINISTER.

5. WHICH OF THE ABOVE FACTORS PRESENTLY RATES UPPERMOST
IN THE MIND OF THE SHAH IS DIFFICULT TO GUESS. WE MAY
LEARN MORE AFTER MEETING OF THE RASTAKHIZ PARTY
POLITICAL BUREAU CONVENED BY HOVEYDA FOR TOMORROW NIGHT,
AUGUST 2.
SULLIVAN

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRIME MINISTER, ALLEGATIONS, PERSONNEL MOVEMENTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 01-Aug-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977TEHRAN06806
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770274-0990
Format: TEL
From: TEHRAN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t197708109/aaaadotx.tel
Line Count: 73
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: f0f82150-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 17-Mar-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1427174
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CHANGE OF PRIME MINISTERS IM THE MAKING?
TAGS: PGOV, PINT, IR, (HOVEYDA, AMIR ABBAS)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odhc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/f0f82150-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009